

## CLAIMS:

*Schell*  
*B1*

1. Broadcast network comprising an information server coupled to a plurality of subscriber stations for transmitting broadcast signals to the subscriber stations, the broadcast network further comprises a return channel for transmitting information from the subscriber terminal to an head-end, the broadcast network further comprises authentication means for authorizing the access of the subscriber terminal to interactive services, characterized in that the subscriber terminal comprises authorization transmitting means for transmitting authorization request messages to an authorization server, the authorization server being arranged for checking the entitlement of the subscriber to services to be provided by the information server, and in that the authorization server is arranged for enabling the subscriber to access said services.

A 2. Broadcast network according to claim 1, characterized in that the information server is coupled to the subscriber terminals via a gateway, and in that the authorization server is arranged for enabling the subscriber to access said services by transmitting a message to the gateway to grant said subscriber access to said services.

A 3. Broadcast network according to claim 2, characterized in that said message comprises information about at least one source IP address from which IP packets are passed to the subscriber station.

A 4. Broadcast network according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that said services are transmitted using IP packets, and in that said message comprises information about at least one destination IP address to which IP packets from the subscriber station are passed.

A 25 5. Subscriber station for receiving broadcast signals, said subscriber stations being arranged for transmitting information via a return channel to a head-end, characterized in that the subscriber terminal comprises authorization transmitting means for transmitting authorization request messages to an authorization server, the subscriber further being arranged for receiving authorization messages from the authorization server, and in that the

subscriber station is arranged for requesting services from the head-end after receiving a positive authorization message.

6. Gateway for passing information from an information server to at least one subscriber terminal, *wherein* characterized in that the gateway is arranged for passing authorization request messages from the subscriber terminal to an authorization server, and in that the gateway is arranged for enabling the subscriber to access said services in response to an authorization message received from the authorization server.

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10 7. Method comprising transmitting broadcast signals to at least one subscriber station and transmitting information from the subscriber terminal to an head-end, method further comprises authorizing the access of the subscriber terminal to available services, *wherein* characterized in that the method comprises transmitting authorization request messages by the subscriber terminal to an authorization server, checking the entitlement of the subscriber terminal to services to be provided and in that the method comprises enabling the subscriber to access said services if the subscriber terminal is entitled.

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8. Method according to claim 7, *wherein* characterized in that the method comprises transmitting information to the subscriber terminals via a gateway, and in that the method comprises enabling the subscriber to access said services by transmitting a message to the gateway to grant said subscriber access to said services.

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9. Method according to claim 8, *wherein* characterized in that said message comprises information about at least one source IP address from which IP packets are passed to the subscriber station.

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10. Method according to claim 8 or 9, *wherein* characterized in that said services are transmitted using IP packets, and in that said message comprises information about at least one destination IP address to which IP packets from the subscriber station are passed.